supports the civil defence set-up in the country by providing logistic and financial support to the states for raising, training and equipping them from time to time.

(e) and (f) Civil defence training was introduced after 1962. There has been constant review & upgradation of training module from time to time keeping in view the requirements in the changing scenario.

Written Answers to Unstarred Questions

Export of branded jewellery

2316. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of branded jewellery exported in 2003-04 and up to February 28, 2005 respectively;

(b) whether Government has taken special efforts to increase exports of branded jewellery from the country;

(c) whether any training institutes are proposed in different States to use the original skills of jewellery makes in the country;

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to encourage such exports from different parts of the country; and

(e) details of such incentives to increase exports of branded jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The data for export of branded jewellery is not available separately. However, the total exports of gold jewellery (plain and studded) from India during the year 2003-04 and upto June 2004 during the year 2004-2005 is as follows:—

Year	2003-04	2004-05 April to June
	US$ in Million	US$ in Million
Gold Jewellery	1868.79	565.99

Soruce: DGCI&S (www. commerce.nic.in)

(b) Export of Gem and Jewellery has been identified as one of the thrust sectors under speical focus initiatives in the existing Foreign Trade Policy with the objective to enhance exports of gem and jewellery including branded jewellery from India.

(c) The following institutes have set up for enhancing the skills of jewellery making in the country:—

New Delhi:	Indian Gemological Institute and Jewellery Product Development Centre.
Jaipur:	Gem Testing Laboratory and Jewellery Product Development Centre.
Mumbai:	Jewellery Product Development Centre and Indian Institute of Gem & Jewellery.
Surat:	Sardar Vallabhbhai Institute for Jewellery Design and Manufacture (SVJDM).

(d) and (e) In the Foreign Trade Policy effective from 1st September, 2004 export of gems & jewellery has been identified as a thrust sector and has been extended the following facilities:

(i) Import of gold of 18 carat and above shall be allowed under the replenishment scheme.

(ii) Duty free import entitlement of consumable for metals other than gold, platinum shall be 2% of FOB value of exports during the previous financial year.

(iii) Duty free import entitlement of commercial samples shall be Rs. 1 lakh.

(iv) Duty free re-import entitlement for rejected jewellery shall be 2% of the FOB value of exports.

(v) Cutting and polishing of gems and jewellery, shall be treated as manufacturing for the purposes of exemption under Section 10A of the Income Tax Act.

Some other facilities extended to the Gem & Jewellery export sector include duty and licence free import of rough diamonds, direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries, creating training infrastructure in this sector with the financial assistance from the government to impart skills in designing in jewellery sector, participation in international fairs and organizing buyer-sellers meets abroad.